

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS18448

This bill encourages parents of kindergarten age children to meet with their kindergarten teacher prior to the beginning of the school year to discuss what the child needs to learn in kindergarten. The parents can then choose to send their child to public kindergarten or to choose another option including home kindergarten. If the child does not go to public kindergarten and is able to pass the post-kindergarten assessment (to be developed by the State Board), the parents and the school district will both receive a portion of the state funds allocated for public kindergarten students (each would receive one fourth of the total funds). The purpose is to stimulate a parent-teacher partnership, encourage parental involvement, and provide for early identification of students with remediation needs.

FISCAL NOTE

Idaho had 21,294 kindergarten students enrolled in the fall of 2007. There are about 26,000 five year olds in the state or about 4,700 students that don't go to public kindergarten. If all 4,700 that don't typically go to public kindergarten took and passed the assessment with no students leaving the public school system the worst case scenario would be a negative fiscal impact of \$5.4 million.

If none of the 4,700 students took the assessment but 10,000 students that would have gone to public kindergarten took the assessment; then the impact to the state budget would be a savings of \$11.5 million.

In all probability, the impact would be between these two figures.

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